

**THE admission of women to the medical school of the Johns Hopkins University affects very closely those interested in the intellectual life of women.**

**The requirements for admission are in themselves of great importance to women's colleges, because the preliminary medical course organized by the Johns Hopkins University is such as can be given in all colleges properly equipped for collegiate instruction in science, and cannot be given where there is lack of scientific apparatus or neglect of scientific methods. Little by little, we may hope, those institutions where it cannot be obtained will be discredited; and in those colleges where it raises the standard of scientific instruction it will necessarily, by reason of the interdependence which exists among college courses, raise the standard of all other work as well. It may be said that as a comparatively small number of students of science intend to embrace the profession of medicine, the effect of the requirements for admission to a medical school on the ordinary scientific course of a college can be but slight. This, however, is an error. More and more, as**

women realize that there is for them, as for men, a choice of futures, the determination will grow not to be excluded in advance from any portion of this choice. Though the number of girls that go to college remains comparatively small, the custom will, I believe, soon cease of sending girls to schools that make admission to college impossible, or possible only after half-wasted years of supplementary instruction; and the habit of choosing college studies as though for the term of college existence only, without reference to the possibility of their continuance or application in future years, will cease, I think, still sooner. More and more, for women as for men, graduate study, and the continuity of the intellectual life implied in graduate study, is the question of the day.

Medicine is not only to students of the natural sciences one of the most important branches of graduate study. It is also, broadly speaking, the only one of the so-called learned professions as yet fully open to women, and the recent action of the Johns Hopkins University will, for the first time, put the women who are about to engage in it on an equal footing with the most fortunate of the men. For the present, at least, the medical profession occupies the foreground of the attention of those concerned for women's intellectual advancement, and it will always, as it seems to me, retain a peculiar interest; for of other professions, even should they become as easily accessible to women as that of medicine, it can at most be said that women are as well fitted for them as men, whereas there is an infinite amount of good to be effected in the practice of medicine which can be effected by none but women.

What this good is in many other directions has been said by others; but I wish to point out how much may be achieved by the woman physician—above all by the woman physician who has herself had a college education, or its equivalent, and has then passed to the study of medicine at such a school as that of the Johns Hopkins—for the furtherance of the intellectual life of women in general. My experience among college students has shown me the need of such a physician, and I think that for the present, or until men have learned that for women as well as for themselves intellectual activity is the keenest of possible lifelong pleasures and a safeguard against a multitude of evils, the skilled and sympathetic woman physician, rather than the man, should accompany young girls through their school and college life. She will be less ready to secure physical health for her patients at the expense of intellectual development, and less hopeful of so securing it. She will prescribe sheer idleness as a remedy neither for the indispositions of girls in their teens, nor for the ill-health of college students. She will have constantly present to her an adequate conception of the ideal or normal life of women, and will understand and know how to remove or diminish the difficulties in the way of its realization. Moreover, her assistance will be available where that of men is not, and will serve to avoid and alleviate much needless suffering; for every one who has had the good fortune to be the friend and adviser of young girls must feel that there are cases in which she could not advise them to consult a male physician.

It will be asked by some, why the studies necessary to place women in the front rank of the medical profession cannot be pursued in a college or university intended for women only. There may be alleged in answer, the difficulty of duplicating such costly appa-

ratus, and the non-existence in America of a hospital for the use of women students like the Johns Hopkins Hospital; but perhaps the best answer is this, that these studies are graduate studies. The difference between graduate and undergraduate coeducation is seldom sufficiently insisted on, and yet it is a vital one, and whenever the battle of coeducation is fought the two should be carefully distinguished. In graduate study, where the students are necessarily mature in age, richer in knowledge, fewer in numbers, tried and sifted by the tests of examinations, of perseverance, of life with its embarrassments, hindrances, and vicissitudes, the disadvantages of coeducation are at a minimum, and its advantages are at a maximum.

Again, it is almost essential for those who are to devote their lives to any branch of knowledge that they should come into contact with those of their contemporaries who are destined to succeed in it, and should measure themselves against them. The few in whom lies the future of any science are all but indispensable associates to one another; to exclude women from such association is, speaking generally, to exclude them from the delights of intellectual competition and the possibility of fame.

The Johns Hopkins University is the center of graduate instruction in this country: the main stress of its activity has been laid, and its American and European reputation rests, on its graduate schools. Its purposes, as soon as it shall have amassed the requisite supplementary endowment, to open the first school of medicine ever organized in the United States as a graduate school, and it has marked its sense of the difference between graduate and undergraduate coeducation by resolving, in response to a widespread movement on the part of the women of America, to admit women to this school, whenever it shall open, on the same terms as men. That women on their part realize the difference between a graduate and an undergraduate school, in influence, in range of activity, and in national importance, is shown by the rapid organization in every part of the United States from Boston to New Orleans, and from Baltimore to San Francisco, of the committees for the Women's Fund of the Medical School of the Johns Hopkins University.

In this movement it may be noted with satisfaction that women have from the beginning come forward not only asking but offering. In October they had already secured one-fifth the sum requisite for opening the medical school. The proportion should be so largely increased before March 15 as to give emphatic evidence that a school all the advantages of which are for women as well as for men may count not only on public sympathy but on the fullest measure of financial support.

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